



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

20350 7590 11/14/2008

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP  
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER  
EIGHTH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

ARJOMANDI, NOOSHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/688,329

10/17/2003

Shoji Kodama

16869B-081000US

2311

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FILE REPLICATION WITH A COMMON FORMAT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/17/2009

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

#### I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

20350 7590 11/14/2008

**TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP  
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER  
EIGHTH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/688,329 10/17/2003 Shoji Kodama 16869B-081000US 2311

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FILE REPLICATION WITH A COMMON FORMAT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
-------------	--------------	---------------	---------------------	----------------------	------------------	----------

nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 02/17/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
----------	----------	----------------

ARJOMANDI, NOOSHA 2167 707-009000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/688,329

10/17/2003

Shoji Kodama

16869B-081000US

2311

20350

7590

11/14/2008

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP  
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER  
EIGHTH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

ARJOMANDI, NOOSHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2008

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 965 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 965 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/688,329	KODAMA, SHOJI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Noosha Arjomandi	2167	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to September 11, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 5, 7, 9-15, 17, and 19-40 (renumbered as 1-34).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

/Noosha Arjomandi/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2167

/John R. Cottingham/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on September 11, 2008, in which claims 1-20 are presented for further examination.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed on September 11, 2008, with respect to claims 1-2, 5-17, 19-40 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of last office action has been withdrawn.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George B. F. Yee Reg. No. (37,478) on October 22, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the claims:**

1. A method for accessing files in a file server comprising:  
receiving a file request in connection with a file;

performing one or more first operations on a first file system in response to the file request, wherein the one or more first file operations are performed on a copy of the file contained in the first file system;

creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename the same as the file when the file has not been copied to a second file system different from the first file system, and creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename different from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system;

selectively performing one or more second operations on the second file system in response to the file request when the file request includes a write-type operation on the file and is queued up in a list of operations to be performed on the second file system, wherein the list of operations comprise operations from previous file requests, wherein the one or more first operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second operations, and wherein the one or more second operations are performed on the copy of the file contained in the second file system; and

accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system.

5. The method of claim 4<sub>1</sub> wherein each file contained in the second file system comprises one or more blocks of physical storage allocated in sequential order.

Art Unit: 2167

6. Cancelled

7. The method of claim ~~6~~1 wherein the step of performing one or more second operations is performed only after completing the step of performing one or more first operations.

8. Cancelled

10. A method for accessing files on a file server comprising:

receiving a request for a first operation on a file, the request including a file reference;

performing the first operation on a first file in a first file system, the first file being identified by the file reference;

storing information representative of the first operation and of the file reference in an entry of a queue;

creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename the same as the file when the file has not been copied to a second file system different from the first file system, and creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename different from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system; and

selectively performing one or more second operations on the second file system in response to the file request when the file request includes a write-type operation on the file and is queued up in a list of operations to be performed on the second file system, wherein the list of operations comprise operations from previous file requests, wherein the one or more first operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second operations, and wherein the

Art Unit: 2167

one or more second operations are performed on the copy of the file contained in the second file system; and

accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system.

16. Cancelled.

17. A method for operating a file server comprising:

receiving a file request;

communicating one or more first file operations to a first file system to perform the file request on a file in the first file system, the file being identified in the file request;

creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename the same as the file when the file has not been copied to a second file system different from the first file system, and creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename different from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system;

determining if the file request is a write-type of request, when a determination is made that the file request is a write-type of request, communicating one or more second file operations to the second file system to perform the file request on a file in the second file system after the file request on the first file system has completed; and

accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via



Art Unit: 2167

a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system and wherein the one or more first file operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second file operations.

18. Cancelled

20. A method for accessing files in a file server comprising:

providing a first file system and a second file system, the second file system comprising files contained in the first file system, the first file system having a file system format that is different from a file system format of the second file system;

receiving a file request;

performing one or more first operations on a file stored in the first file system;

creating a copy of the file having the same filename as the file when the file has not been copied to the second file system when the file request is a close file operation, and creating a copy of the file having a different filename from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system, the copy being stored in the second file system, and

accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system and wherein the one or more first file

Art Unit: 2167

operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second filed operations.

23. A file server comprising:

a data processing component;

a communication component configured to receive file requests; and

a physical storage component in data communication with the data processing component comprising a first physical storage portion and a second physical storage portion, wherein the first physical storage portion containing files organized in a first file system, and the second physical storage portion containing files organized in a second file system, the first file system having a format different from the second file system, wherein the second file system comprises one or more files contained in the first file system, the data processing component comprising first file system software for accessing the first file system and second file system software for accessing the second file system,

performing first file requests in connection with a file made on the first file system,

creating a copy of the file on a second file system having a filename the same as the file when the file has not been copied to the second file system different from the first file system, ~~otherwise~~ and creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename different from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system

Art Unit: 2167

different from the first file system, and configured to perform at least some of the first file requests on the second file system; and

accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system and wherein the one or more first file operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second filed operations.

33. An application server comprising:

a data processing component for executing one or more applications;

file access software configured to access a first file system and a second file system that is different from the first file system;

a physical storage component comprising first physical storage for files contained in the first file system, the physical storage component further comprising second physical storage for files contained in the second file system;

receiving file requests in connection with a file from the one or more applications and performs the file requests on the first file system and selectively performing the file requests on the second file system,

Art Unit: 2167

creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename the same as the file when the file has not been copied to a second file system different from the first file system, and creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename different from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system and

accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system and wherein the one or more first file operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second filed operations.

37. file server comprising:

means for receiving file requests;

means for performing the file requests on a first file system, including means for communicating with the first file system; and

means for selectively performing the file requests on a second file system, including means for communicating with the second file system, the second file system having a format different from the first file system,

means for creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename the same as the file wherein when a file associated with a first file request on the first file system has not been copied to the second file system;

means for creating a copy of the file on the second file system having a filename different from the file when the file has been copied to the second file system; and

means for accessing files on the first file system by a first client system only via the file server and accessing files on the second file system directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system and wherein the one or more first file operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second filed operations.

#### ***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Upon searching a variety of databases, the examiner respectfully submits that “wherein files on the first file system are accessed by a first client system only via the file server and files on the second file system are accessed directly by a second client system via a block interface absent of the file server, and wherein a format of the first file system is different from a format of the second file system, wherein the step of performing one or more second operations is performed when the file request includes a write-type operation on the file, wherein the step of performing one or more second operations is queued up in a list of operations to be performed on the second file system, wherein the list of operations comprise operations from previous file requests, wherein the one or more first operations are performed asynchronously with respect to the one or more second operations.” in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims are not taught nor suggested by the prior art of record (PTO-892 and 1449). Therefore, all

Art Unit: 2167

pending claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-15, 17, and 19-40 are hereby allowed. These features, in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims, render claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-15, 17, and 19-40 (renumbered as 1-34) allowable. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

5. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has

been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to

Art Unit: 2167

view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199. The USPTO's official fax number is 571-272-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Noosha Arjomandi, whose telephone number is (571) 272-9784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham, can be reached on (571) 272-7079.

October 24, 2008

/Noosha Arjomandi/

Art Unit 2167

/John R. Cottingham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167